crime. Another such counter was opened by NCRB at Gurgaon on 16th August, 2001. The Government has accorded its approval for setting up of twenty more counters in sixteen States Union Territories.

Militants plan to hit VIPs with Explosive Laden Toy Planes

2495. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the news-item captioned "ISI ultras to hit VIPs with toy Planes" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Pakistan's ISI has directed militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir to use explosive laden 'Toy planes' to hit VIPs;

(b) whether this has been confirmed by the arrested militants and wireless intercepts; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to prevent such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There were reports that a terrorist organization may use toy planes to strike at targets in India.

(c) Instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities to thwart terrorists plans.

Delegation to USA to seek cooperation in resolving terrorism

†2496. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to send a delegation under the leadership of Home Minister to the USA for seeking cooperation in resolving the problems of terrorism;

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any offer has been made by the USA so far for providing active cooperation to eliminate terrorism from India; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Home Minister is expected to visit the United States at the invitation of the US Government as part of the process of strengthening India-US bilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism.

(c) and (d) India and the United States have an ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. Besides sharing of information and assessment on terrorist groups in this region, the United States provides assistance through anti-terrorism training for law enforcement agencies in India, capacity building for consequence management and support for strengthening institutional structure in the country for combating terrorism. During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington from 7—9 November, 2001, the two sides agreed to launch a new initiative on cyber-terrorism. The two countries also coordinate efforts on counter-terrorism initiatives in the United Nations, including on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, sponsored by India.

On 5th October, 2001 the White House spokesman had stated at a press briefing that President Bush had condemned the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 1st October, 2001 and that the President had also said that Terrorism must end everywhere, and that includes in Kashmir'. Besides Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, which had been notified by the US State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation, the US Department of Treasury has notified Jaish-c-Mohammad as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, along with Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and some other Pakistan-based organisations and individuals.